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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 OTTAWA 001734

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [HA](#) [AORC](#) [EAID](#) [EFIN](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#)

SUBJECT: CANADA: APPEAL TO DONORS FOR HAITIAN ELECTIONS
BUDGET SHORTFALL

REF: SECSTATE 101620

Classified By: POLMINCOUNS Brian Flora, reasons 1.4 (b) (d)

11. (SBU) Summary: Poloff and Econoff met with a combined Foreign Affairs Canada and CIDA team led by FAC Director for the Caribbean and Central America Christian Lapointe June 7 to discuss the Haitian elections budget and the general situation in Haiti. Canadian officials feel it is important for the US, Canada, Brazil and France to "shake the tree" on security problems. The GOC asked if the USG \$8 million in additional funding for the elections will be paid to the UNDP election fund, and asked if we know the composition of the US delegation to the June 16-17 Montreal conference. End Summary

MONTREAL CONFERENCE

12. (C) Lapointe said that Canada's efforts at present are focused on the success of the Montreal conference. The GOC sees this meeting as a follow-up to the Cayenne conference, but hopes that it will go beyond Cayenne in developing a closer partnership with the IGOH and shifting decision making more to Haitians. There will be a delegation of 13 individuals from the IGOH in attendance, including 5 Ministers, four representatives from the provisional electoral committee, and Chief of Police Leon Charles. Lapointe said he is optimistic about pinning down further support in Montreal.

13. (C) In Montreal, Elections Canada officials plan to meet with technical elections experts of key donor countries the morning of June 16 to discuss a proposal for an elections steering committee. Lapointe said that there will not be any involvement by Canadian civil society in this conference as it is government to government talks, but Canada continues to hope to involve the Haitian diaspora in reconstruction and development. He asked if we knew yet who from the U.S. would be attending the conference.

SECURITY IN HAITI

14. (C) Lapointe said Canada has high hopes that the joint visit by the PM's Special Advisor on Haiti Denis Coderre and A/S Roger Noriega will energize MINUSTAH and make clear to the Haitian leadership its role in improving security and stability. The GOC highly values this partnership. He expressed a concern that MINUSTAH simply does not have adequate intelligence to act forcefully. He mentioned that when the Canadian forces were there they had a strong intelligence capacity but when it was withdrawn the Brazilian contingent was not able to replace it.

15. (C) Lapointe said that Aristide supporters are emboldened by support from outsiders and there is a need to convey a strong message to key countries that are facilitating Aristide's continued involvement in Haiti, e.g. the Dominican Republic and South Africa. They said that the GOC has decided it is time to crack down on appeals to violence made by Aristide supporters in Canada, and make it clear that such activities will not be tolerated. One member of the Canadian team wondered why the U.S. has not moved to indict Aristide on drug trafficking charges, as we have done with so many of his close colleagues. The team sees violence increasing as elections near, instigated by individuals both inside and outside of Haiti. Lapointe mentioned that Canada has a new project to professionalize the police with long-term senior level leaders training for the post-MINUSTAH period.

ELECTIONS UPDATE

16. (SBU) Yves Petillon, CIDA Director for Haiti, Cuba and the Dominican Republic, said that Canada is largely satisfied with the way election funding is shaping up. They think that the additional funding from the USG and the EU will be almost adequate to cover the budget requirements identified by the UN (\$2-3 million shortfall). He asked whether the US \$8 million could be used for observation as well as the management of elections, and whether it would be disbursed through the UNDP fund, which is how Canada and the EU are making their contribution. Petillon said that Jean Pierre Kingsley of Elections Canada will continue to play a key role and will participate actively in Montreal. He also mentioned

that Canada will not be providing additional funding above and beyond the CN \$17 million (USD \$14 million) it has committed for registration.

17. (SBU) With regards to the elections themselves, the team is concerned that the registration process will be delayed. Lapointe said that there are supposed to be 150 offices established but there are significantly delays in doing so, especially after the torching of one office in the north. Lapointe said this could delay the process by 5-6 weeks but believes that a postponement of this length would be manageable. However, the clock is ticking and every day counts and if the delay is longer than this it could send a negative signal to Haiti and the international community regarding the viability of the political process.

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